

# HAMPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Medical Officer's Report.

HAMPTON,

February, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith send you my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1896.

The total number of deaths during the past 12 months is 67, which is a low one, but slightly higher than in the year 1894, which was 60, a remarkably low number; in 1893, the total was up to 80; and in 1895 it reached 78. By regarding these figures, we must, I consider, rest well satisfied with the result this year.

Taking the estimated population at 6000 up to the middle of 1896, this will give us a death rate of 11.16 per 1000.

The total number of deaths during Infancy, that is children under one year of age, is 17; or 2.83 per 1000—rather a high rate, when we have to remember the mildness of last winter, which was a remarkable one in this district.

These 67 deaths, classified according to ages and diseases, are as follows, viz. :—

Under one year	...	...	...	17
1, and under 5 years	...	...	...	3
5, „ 15 „	...	...	...	3
15, „ 25 „	...	...	...	5
25, „ 65 „	...	...	...	18
65, and upwards	...	...	...	21
			TOTAL	<u>67</u>

DISEASES, viz. :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	3
Phthisis	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	10
Heart Disease	...	...	...	12
All other Diseases	...	...	...	37
			TOTAL	<u>67</u>

The three cases of Diarrhoea occurred in infants, and considering that 157 births were registered during the year, and the extreme heat of the past summer, the number from this cause is small; and, I consider, shows that knowledge of feeding these very young children is better understood and carried out. Parents cannot be too careful to avoid the administration of any solid food in the early months of infant life, and also to exercise extreme cleanliness in preparing food, which is most vital to an infant's well being; together with heating milk up to 180 degrees, or under boiling point—this entails very little extra trouble, and will be amply repaid by good results.

The cases coming to my knowledge under the Notification Act, have been somewhat numerous. They embrace the following diseases:—

Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	5 cases.
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	2 „
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	2 „
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	1 „
Measles	...	...	...	...	15 „
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	58 „
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	14 „

Scarlet Fever prevailed considerably—first in the spring time; after, in the early part of October and November, to a greater extent. The outbreak in October pointed so much to probable infection in Schools that I decided to close the two Elementary Schools for Boys and Girls for some weeks. I also obtained the consent of the Clergy to close the Sunday Schools in Hampton for the same period. This had the effect of stopping the outbreak; together with the removal of 27 cases to the Isolation Hospital at Tolworth. Only one death took place, that was at the Hospital.

Diphtheria prevailed in several houses, but was not epidemic, and spread over the year in odd places; the cause was almost always traced to defects in the drainage, which were attended to and remedied. Two of the cases ended fatally; six of the 14 persons attacked were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Measles were not epidemic, and mild in character.

There has been during the latter months of the year a good deal of trouble from overflowing cesspools and drains, caused by an excess of rainfall. This trouble is now likely soon to disappear for good, as the system of drainage for this district is progressing well, and will, in all probability, be completed next year. This has long been a very great want, ever since the overflow of drains connected with cesspools has been cut off from the River Thames. It is sincerely to be hoped that pipes will be well and truly laid, and the scheme to drain this district will prove a great boon to all owners and occupiers of property in this neighbourhood.

This cesspool draining has caused almost all the wells to be closed, by reason of subsoil contamination, for some years. Another well has had to be closed this year.

The result of my visits to Dairies, Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses, has satisfied me that they are well looked after. I have advised more frequent lime-washing in Slaughter-houses.

House-refuse has been, with advantage, more frequently removed; and the adoption of closed metal bins to a very much increased extent, has been productive of improved sanitation and convenience. This I thought necessary to urge upon the inhabitants this year, and am sure of good results following to all concerned, particularly in confined premises.

The water supply, provided by the Grand Junction Water Co., has been very well maintained during all the months in the year; there was an ample amount for all purposes during the long dry season experienced this past summer; the quality has been good, and, as a rule, well filtered.

The Water Companies, in this district, have also caused much less annoyance from excess of smoke from the shafts, although there is still room for improvement in this direction. I trust therefore the resident managers will in no way relax their efforts in endeavouring to reduce the emission of smoke to a minimum in the immediate future.

A section of the district has been troubled by an occupier of a house keeping an inordinate number of dogs for breeding purposes; strong steps were taken in the matter, by reason of the insanitary state of the premises, together with the nuisance of the howling and barking during the night and early hours of the morning, a state of things calculated to be most detrimental to the health and comfort of those within hearing. I am glad to report that the objectionable occupier has departed, and his dogs are no more smelt or heard.

Some of the roads are still very much out of repair, but I am given to understand that steps are being taken to remedy matters, and the gradual advance of the new drains will tend also to this desired improvement.

Mr. Kemp, the Sanitary Inspector, has resigned his office on account of his time being so much taken up with other matters connected with his surveyorship. He was a colleague I always worked well with, and I beg to record the fact in this Report. He will be succeeded by an Inspector who will devote the whole of his time to the office—an arrangement, I think, calculated to ensure a good result.

In concluding this Report, I may mention that the Grand Junction Water Company has, in places, re-laid their water supply pipes deeper, thereby rendering the danger of blocking by frost almost impossible. This is very satisfactory, considering the dreadful experience this district has recently gone through from this cause.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WENTWORTH TYNDALE.

*To the Hampton Urban District Council.*

Urban District Council of Hampton.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

*31st December,*

1896.